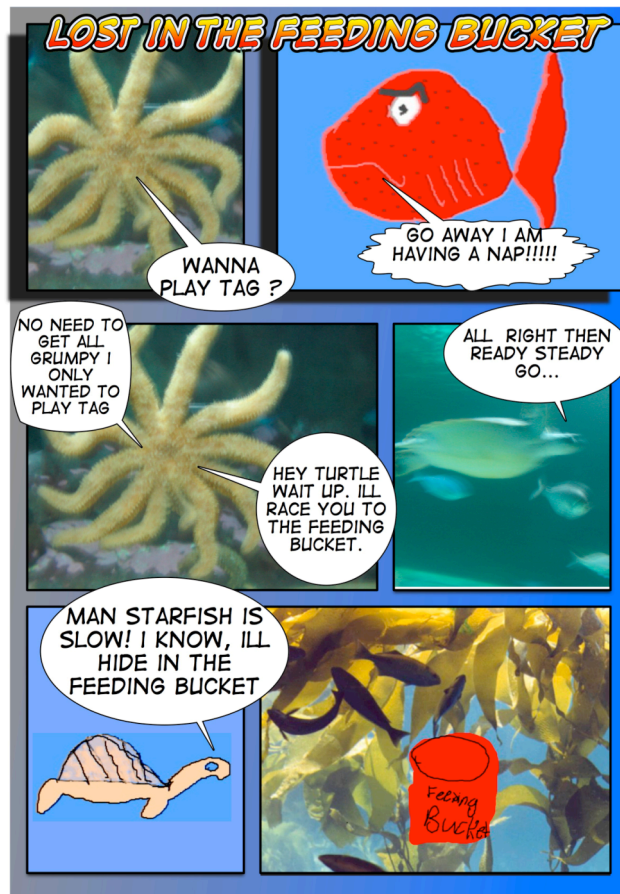


Creating Comics Using Comic Life

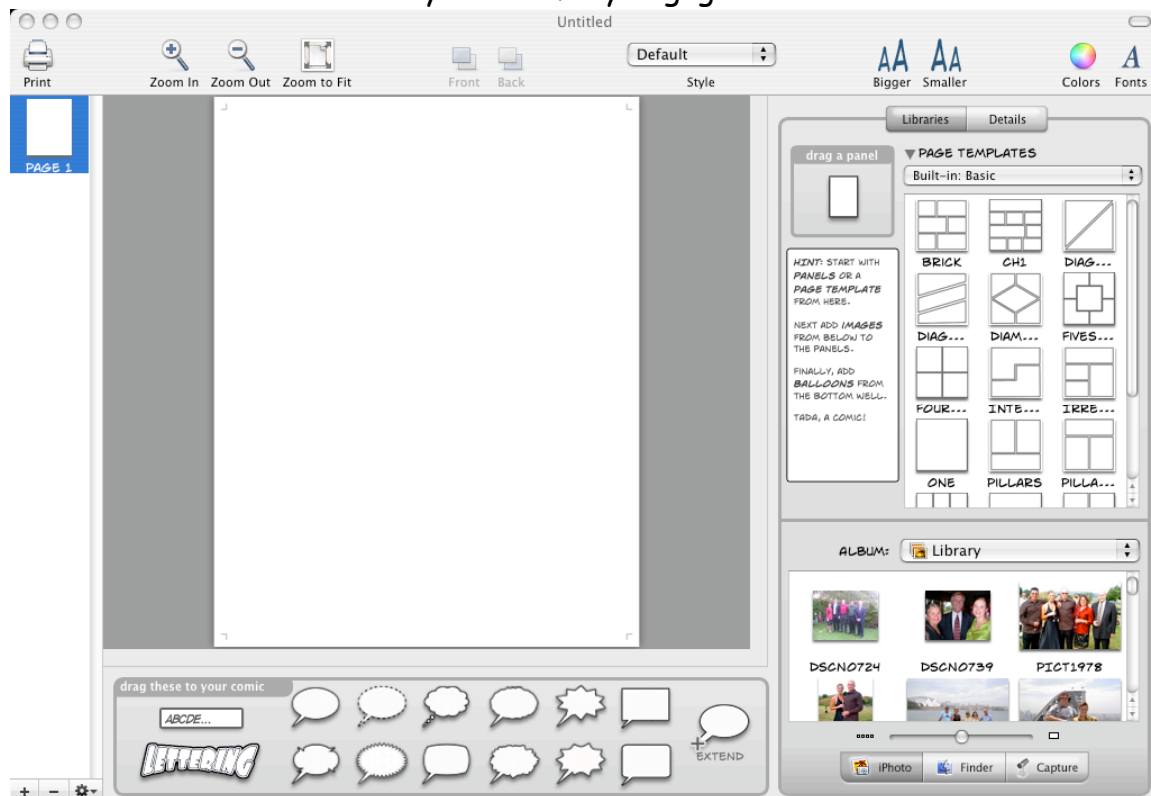


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Creating Comics using Comic Life

Teachers are always looking for new and engaging texts to use in the classroom. An often-overlooked genre is comics. While comics in the past were thought to not be challenging enough for students, the opposite is true. The space between the comic panels forces readers to infer, to let their imaginations take over. Comics are multidimensional-they combine both words and images. They can be used to teach a variety of things-character development, dialogue, transitions, conclusions, etc. Since comics are often thought of as recreational reading, students are often immediately drawn in by the opportunity to play with images and language. This genre is very appealing especially to those boys who are reluctant readers and writers. I have observed these boys to be fully engaged in the task



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Open Comic Life and this window will appear. Click on the panel you want and drag it into the blank page. Underneath the panel is the album and all your i photo library is available to just click and drag into a panel. For true comic genre you need to draw your images in either Kidpix or Appleworks.

If you use Kidpix you will need to export the file. When you have completed your drawing, got File, Export and save it as a JPEG in a new folder, called Comic art etc.

If using Appleworks, you will simply select the drawing then copy and paste into Comic Life.

When you have all your art work in place you can play around with the look.

To add a Title, click on LETTERING or the ABCDE box.

To add text click on the speech bubbles.

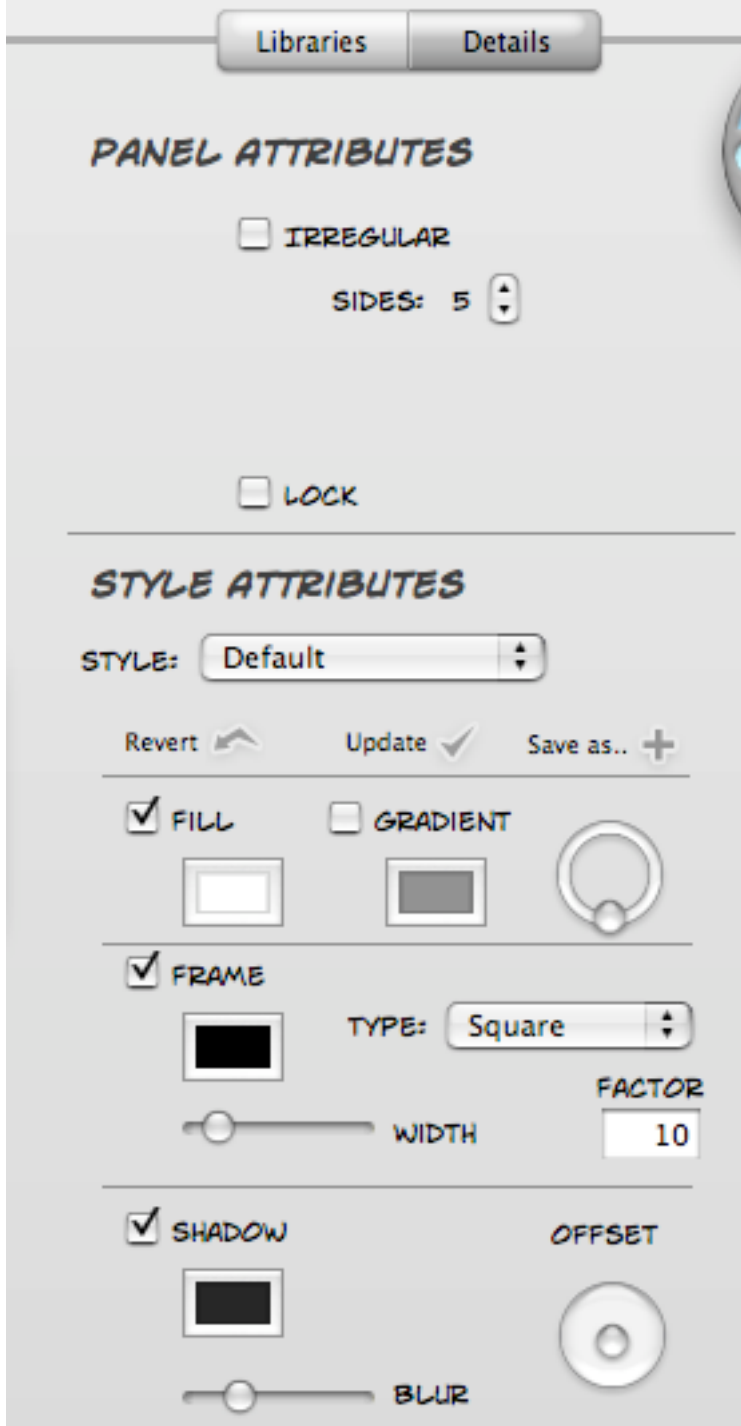


To change the format of the lettering, click on the down arrow by default and select a different style. When you highlight your text you can increase or decrease the size by clicking on Bigger Smaller. You can change the colour and the Font by clicking on these.



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To make more detailed changes, you now need to switch from the Library to Details.

This is where you can change the colour of your panels, add a gradient, the width of the lines and add a shadow, which you can offset.

On average, most students can tell a story on three pages. This software lends itself to sequencing using photos eg making piklets.

This is a very user friendly piece of software and worth exploring.

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